



Darrow Loucks  
Cyclist 2011, 2012, 2013 and 2014

Darrow Loucks has been a patient for much of his life. His first bout with cancer came when he was just one month old when he lost his right eye and also some vision in his left eye. Since the late 80s he has had several basil cell and squamous cell carcinomas in his eyes. And in 2007 he developed a benign tumor in his brain. None of this has stopped him from conquering the Closer to Free Century each year.

When he was first diagnosed, the closest treatment center was in NYC, and his parents had to shuttle him 3 times a week for radiation and laser treatment. His carcinomas in the 80s and 90s were all treated closer to home by the doctors at Yale-New Haven and he credits that care for keeping him cancer free for the last 10 years.

It turns out that the tumor in his brain was a result of his previous cancers and treatments. But his doctors at Yale-New Haven knew to look for it and it was removed safely and successfully. Without cancer research, his meningioma would not have been detected in its early stages and he could be in a very different situation right now.

Since Darrow started working in Protective Services at YNHH, he has been deeply affected by the number of cancer patients he encounters on a daily basis. He actually requests to be assigned to locations where he has a lot of contact with cancer patients. "Being a survivor myself, I decided I wanted to get involved in helping these patients in some manner," he says. "And since I celebrated the successful removal of the meningioma from my brain by buying a new bicycle, when I found out about the Closer to Free Ride I knew it was something I wanted to be a part of."

Darrow has developed many wonderful friendships through the CTF Ride and he has connected many other cancer survivors who ride and volunteer. "When I'm riding up a steep hill or at near the end of a long training ride, very often someone in the group will yell c'mon we can do it, it's for the patients!" For many years, Darrow was one of those patients and now he is doing everything he can to pay back his good fortune and quality care. Join Darrow and other inspiring survivors at the 2015 Closer to Free Ride in September.

